



CPEC

Legislative Update, February 2009

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by Julia Blair

This report lists bills staff are tracking in the 2009–10 legislative session. A staff-recommended position is included for some of these bills. Many bills are only spot bills at this point — introduced with little substantive content and may be developed during the session. At present, fewer bills were introduced than usual, due to the state's budget situation. Staff will continue to track bills as they are introduced and amended, and keep the Commission apprised of developments of interest.

Affordability

SB 48 (Alquist), College Textbooks: Affordability and Online Textbooks

As introduced January 12, 2009

Staff Recommended Position – Support

This bill states legislative intent to enact legislation relating to the affordability of college textbooks and the promotion and use of online textbooks.

Private Postsecondary Education

AB 48 (Portantino), Private Postsecondary Education: Department of Consumer Affairs

As introduced December 1, 2008

Staff Recommended Position – Watch

This bill expresses legislative intent to enact legislation establishing a Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education to oversee private postsecondary schools. The bill also expresses legislative intent that until the bureau is established, the Department of Consumer Affairs respond to student complaints and provide information to students and prospective students on private postsecondary schools. The bill continues the existence of the Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education Administration Fund under the administration of the Department of Consumer Affairs and appropriates \$1 million from that fund to the department to carry out the complaint resolution and consumer information functions.

Segmental Mission and Functions

AB 24 (Block), California State University: Feasibility Study for a Chula Vista center

As introduced December 1, 2008

Staff Recommended Position – Watch

This bill requires CSU to conduct a study on the feasibility of opening a satellite center in Chula Vista, with the ultimate goal of establishing it as an independent campus. This study is to be finished by January 2011.

AB 78 (Portantino), Concurrent Enrollment in Community College and Secondary Schools

As introduced December 18, 2008

Staff Recommended Position – Support

This bill amends current law by authorizing school districts to enter into partnerships with community college districts to allow high school students to enroll in community college courses. Current law requires school principals to provide a recommendation for students wishing to attend a community college summer session, and generally limits this summer session attendance to 5% of students from any grade level.

This bill deletes those provisions and establishes a procedure for high school students to attend community colleges. The bill specifies that these students be counted as full-time equivalent students for the purpose of state apportionments to the community college district, except for instructional activities for which payment is to be made to the student's K-12 school district.

Student Fees and Financial Aid

AB 38 (Salas), Postsecondary Education: Resident Classification for Veterans

As introduced December 1, 2008

Staff Recommended Position – Support

This bill repeals existing provision of law that determines residency status for military veterans and enact the Veterans Education Assistance Act of 2009. Currently, a student who was a member of the U.S. Armed Forces stationed in California on active duty for more than one year immediately before being discharged can be classified as a resident for student fee purposes for the length of time they lived in California after being discharged up to the minimum time necessary to become a resident. This bill deletes the one year requirement. The student would have to meet other requirements, including eligibility for federal veterans education benefits.

AB 69 (Duvall), Statewide Student Fee Policy

As introduced December 12, 2008

Staff Recommended Position – Watch

This bill requires CSU and UC to set fees over a four-year period instead of annually, effective with the 2010–11 fiscal year. The bill provides CSU and UC the discretion to set the fee levels for that period. This bill deletes provisions that required the fees and tuition for resident undergraduates be reduced to the 1998–99 and 1999–2000 fiscal year levels. The bill applies to UC only to the extent that the Regents act by resolution to make its provisions applicable.

SB 15 (Cedillo), Student Financial Aid: Members and Former Members of the Armed Forces

As introduced December 1, 2008

Staff Recommended Position – Support

This bill amends current law on Cal Grant A and B awards to entitle otherwise eligible students who are members or former members of the U.S. Armed Forces, and who enroll in a community college career technical education program or qualifying undergraduate certificate or degree program, beginning with the 2010–11 academic year.

The bill requires the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) to make preliminary awards to all currently eligible applicants, who would be required to affirm in writing that they meet the program requirements. The bill requires CSAC to randomly select at least 10% of awards made under these provisions to verify that students meet eligibility requirements, and to seek repayment of improperly-disbursed funds. The bill requires CSAC to report annually to the Legislature and Governor the number of awards made under this program.

Workforce Development

AB 35 (Furutani), Education: Workforce Preparation

As introduced December 1, 2008

Staff Recommended Position – Support

This bill declares legislative intent to enact legislation to develop a strategic plan for California's education system as relates to the preparation of students for the workforce.

AB 148 (Coto), Commission on Teacher Credentialing: Study on Transformational Leadership

As introduced January 23, 2009

Staff Recommended Position – Watch

This bill requires the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to conduct a study to recommend more effective paths to transformational leadership, through the administrative credential process on the part of school principals and leaders. The bill requires the CTC to conduct the study between July 2010 and June 2011, and report its findings to the Legislature by December 2011. The bill repeals those provisions as of January 1, 2012.

Other Areas

SB 19 (Simitian), Education Data

As introduced December 1, 2008

Staff Recommended Position – Watch

This bill states legislative intent to amend the State Education Code to enact legislation to create the Statewide Education Data Governing Board. This board would help link education data from education and non-education sources to ensure the quality of this data, and to provide access to that data for educational purposes.

AB 218 (Portantino) Establishment of a new Accountability Framework for Higher Education

As introduced February 3, 2009

Staff Recommended Position – Watch

The bill deletes the following CPEC statutory requirements from current law: develop criteria for evaluating the effectiveness of all aspects of postsecondary education; convene an intersegmental advisory committee on transfer; review and make recommendations on postsecondary programs for adult education; report on the financial conditions of independent institutions; annual reporting requirements from CSU, UC, and the community colleges to CPEC on transfer patterns. This bill repeals the existing higher education accountability program and requires the state to establish a new accountability framework with prescribed goals for higher education. Data collected would be reported to the Legislature and the Governor and made available to the public. The bill is consistent with provisions in SB 325, which the Commission supported last legislative session. Staff recommend that the Commission watch this bill as further information is gathered.

AB 220 (Brownley) Educational Facilities – 2009 Facilities Bond Act

As introduced February 4, 2009

Staff Recommended Position – Support

The bill states legislative intent to place the Kindergarten–University Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2009 on the ballot for the November 3, 2009 statewide general election. The bill does not yet specify the amount of this general obligation bond. If passed, the bond would provide funds for public K-12 education and public postsecondary education.

AB 224 (Portantino) Education: Internet Broadcasts of Board Meetings

As introduced February 4, 2009

Staff Recommended Position – Support

This bill requires CPEC, the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, the CSU Board of Trustees, CSAC, and the Board of Directors of EdFund to broadcast their board meetings over the Internet and to provide public notice of the availability of these proceedings. The bill also requests the UC Board of Regents to comply with these provisions. Staff believe that CPEC's current practice for audio-streaming meetings is consistent with this legislation.

Other Bills being Monitored by Staff

AB 8 (Brownley), Education Finance Working Group

As introduced December 1, 2008

This bill requires the Director of Finance and the Legislative Analyst to convene a working group to examine current methods of financing public K-12 education with the goal of restructuring the way the state finances K-12 education. This group is to report its findings and recommendations to the Legislature and the Governor by December 2010.

AB 105 (Evans), Finance — 2009–10 California State Budget

As introduced January 9, 2009

This bill is the Assembly version of the state budget for the 2009–10 fiscal year and contains appropriations for state operations.

SB 47 (Ducheny), Finance — 2009–10 California State Budget

As introduced January 9, 2009

This bill is the Senate version of the state budget for the 2009–10 fiscal year and contains appropriations for the state operations.

SCA 1 (Walters), Amend Two-thirds Vote Requirements for State Budget

As introduced December 1, 2008

This measure amends the constitutional requirement that two-thirds of each house of the State Legislature must vote to pass a bill appropriating money from the General Fund. This measure provides that if the total amount of Budget Bill and other General Fund appropriations for the coming fiscal year is within 5% of total General Fund appropriations for the preceding fiscal year, the Budget Bill may be passed by a simple majority vote, with specifications. The measure provides that statutes enacting a Budget Bill meeting the conditions set forth in this provision take effect immediately, and are not subject to referendum.

SCA 5 (Hancock), Exempt Budget Bill from Two-thirds Vote Requirements for Passage

As introduced December 2, 2008

This measure exempts General Fund appropriations in the annual Budget Bill from the constitutional requirement that two-thirds of each house of the state Legislature must vote to pass a bill appropriating money from the State General Fund. This measure changes existing statute to provide that the Budget Bill and its “trailer bills” that are necessary to implement the Budget Bill are permitted to take effect immediately upon enactment.

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*This committee consists of all members
of the Senate*

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